

The Gospel this weekend concerns itself with poor “doubting Thomas.” We give him such a name because he was the one who happened to be missing when the Lord appeared to the others and he was away. He came back and was in utter disbelief and told the others he could not believe unless he were able to physically touch our Lord. Our Lord later appears and heeds that request. However, it seems there is a gentle rebuke- “do you believe because you have seen me?” Perhaps- but perhaps Thomas was just stuck where he was at that moment too!

Even as he was stuck in that moment, it is tempting to overlook a very subtle fact- the fact that Jesus heard his request. It was not an elegant nor an overly “pious” request per se, but it was a request. “Unless I see this, I will struggle to believe.” Even if it may not be a great many things- it is at the very least an honest prayer. He said what was on his heart- and not what he thought the Lord would want to hear. He spoke very bluntly- and that blunt prayer was heard.

Sometimes we could be even more courageous in our own prayers as well. We can get too wrapped up in what we think the Lord “wants” to hear and so we start to pray in a halfhearted or overly polished way, or maybe we give up and we don’t even show up at all. We start to say that we cannot pray up at that level, and so we essentially stop.

Somehow, though, Thomas shows us something important- it isn’t so much about praying perfectly- it’s about praying in honesty. We must pray from where we are and with our true hearts! Don’t just say what you think God wants to hear- He wants to hear your real voice!

~Fr. Belken

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<p>St. Denis Parish 135 N. Winchester, Benton, MO 63736 PO Box 127, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3864 Web: www.stdenisbenton.org</p>	<p>St. Lawrence Parish 1001 State Highway A, New Hamburg, MO PO Box 247, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3317 Web: www.stlnh.org</p>
<p>Pastor: Rev. Daniel Belken</p>	
<p>Office Manager: Mrs. Lisa Spalding, lisa@stdenisbenton.org Bookkeeper: Mrs. Marilyn Burford Parish Council President: Mr. Jeff Diebold</p>	<p>Office Manager: Mr. Billy Ray Johnson, billyray@stlnh.org Maintenance: Mr. Henry Beussink & Mr. Gerard Dirnberger Parish Council President: Mr. Gary Reischman</p>
<p>St. Denis School 105 N. Winchester Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3017 Web: stdenisbenton.eduk12.net Email: lindsay@stdenisbenton.org Principal: Mrs. Lindsay Wikle Parish & School Maintenance: Mr. Larry Essner School Board President: Mr. Glenn Collom</p>	<p>Sacraments Saint Denis Mass: Sunday at 7:00am and 10:00am Wednesday-Friday at 8:00am Confessions: Tuesday @ 7:00pm or by appt. Saint Lawrence Mass: Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 8:30am Tuesday at 6:00pm and Wednesday at 7:00am Confessions: Saturday @ 3:15pm or by appt.</p>

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	14	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	15- 8am	David Burger
Thu.	16-8am	Catherine Young
Fri.	17-8am	Mike Fodge
Sun.	19-7am	Collin Crocket
Sun.	19-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, April 19 , 7:00am

Lector: Kay Elkins
EM: Kay Elkins
Servers: Brooklyn LeGrand, Emmalyn Care
Greet\ Gifts: Bev Riley, Mary Ann Robert

Sunday, April 19, 10:00am

Lector: Confirmation Candidates
EM: Pam Dannenmueller, LeShae Hann
Servers: Gabriel & Roslen Mack, Ava Weller, Brailey Ralledge, Nora Hann, Nova Wikle
Greet\ Gifts: Curtis & Cheryl Essner

Parish Stewardship

To Be Announced Next Week

Envelopes:
Loose:
Total Collection:
Weekly Est .Budget \$5,009.00
Difference:

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for the Month of April:
 Circle 6: Chairlady-Linda Bollinger
 Decorating Committee-April: Mary Young

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday

Holy Hour at 3pm this Sunday
 at Guardian Angel Parish in Oran, MO
 Confessions and Adoration Available

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	14-7am	Bill Brucker
Wed.	15-7am	Eugene Seyer
Thurs	16-7am	Herb & Virginia Essner
Fri.	17-7am	Donna Bucher
Sat.	18-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	19-8:30am	Gerard Essner

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, April 18, 4:00pm

Lector / EM: Frank Glueck
Musician: Krista Kluesner
Cantor: Krista Kluesner
Servers: Please Volunteer

Sunday, April 19, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Diane Ashcraft
Musician: Krista Kluesner
Cantor: Krista Kluesner
Servers: Drew, Kinsey, & Ty Essner, Tyler Jackson

Parish Stewardship

Envelopes: \$4,097.00
Loose: \$249.00
Online: \$495.00
Total Collection: \$4,841.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
 Church Cleaning for Friday, April 17:
 Chairman: Amy Shelton
 Danny & Theresa Simpher, Connie Steger,
 Marty & Carol Steimle, Ryan & Lani Steimle

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 2026
 THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Acts 2:14, 22-33
 1 Peter 1:17-21
 Luke 24:13-35

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUMMAGE SALE

SDS

Please join us for our 2nd annual Rummage Sale! We are accepting donations, so clean out your closets! Email lindsay@stdenisbenton.org for donation info!

May 9th, 2026 from 9am-4pm

SDS April 25th at 6pm **SDS**

MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us for our 1st Annual Trivia Night here at St. Denis at 6:00
 Call or email to reserve your table!
 573.545.3017 lindsay@stdenisbenton.org

BYOB
 (bring your own beverages and snacks)

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION

April 12-Dorothy Deason
 April 19-Margaret Heuring

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW CATHOLICS!

Please congratulate all of the new Catholics who joined our two parishes at the Easter Vigil:



Janis Burford
 Jaime Burger
 Michael Freed
 Amos Helms
 Trae Melton



The Sparks Family
 (Brandon, Brooke, Cash, and Tucker)

Charlotte Steimle

Please also congratulate Hayden Steimle, who completed his sacraments of Initiation!

Also, please thank our OCIA catechists, Geri LeGrand, and Cheri Vetter, for all of their hard work!



Please Remember in Prayer

Mary Beth Evans
Family of Helen Vandeven



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

PLEASE CONGRATULATE OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS WHO ARE RECEIVING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS WEEKEND! MAY GOD BLESS YOU!



CONFIRMATION NOTES

Our Final Class is this week, on April 15, 2026, at 7:00pm at St. Denis. The Retreat is on April 18, 2026 at St. Lawrence Parish Center- starting at 8:00am. It is required! Confirmation is with Bishop Rice- April 18 at St. Lawrence (4pm) and April 19 at St. Denis (10am)

CEMETERY NOTE for both parishes. The cemetery will be cleared of all grave decorations placed on the ground around the graves for the April through October mowing season to allow for access for mowing and trimming. Decorations attached to the top or the sides of gravestones off the ground and not in the way of mowing or trimming may remain.